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REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are still pending in the patent application.

In paragraph 3 of the Official Action, claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the three reference proposed combination of Colonna et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,620) in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,078), and further in view of Tyneski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,584,054).

The obviousness rejection is respectfully traversed because neither the proposed combination, nor any of the prior art references including Tyneski et al., teaches or suggests an electronic device having a movable housing element with touch sensitive circuitry as claimed in the instant patent application and as the term "touch sensitive circuitry" is known and used in the art. In operation, and as claimed, the touch sensitive circuitry responds to a contact force by a user, for providing a force position signal indicative of the position of the contact force applied by the user, as recited in claim 1.

The reasons why Colonna et al. and Kim do not teach or suggest this feature are set forth on the record and not repeated herein. The reasoning in the Final Rejection recognizes that Colonna et al. and Kim do not teach or suggest this feature, and is pointing to Tyneski et al. to make up for this deficiency.

However, Tyneski et al.'s front cover 104 has keys 108 (Figure 1) with pressure surfaces 204 (Figure 2) that contact

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activation areas 206 (Figure 2) of the display 202. Similar to Colonna et al. and Kim, Tyneski et al.'s front cover 104 does not contain touch sensitive circuitry, as claimed herein.

It is respectfully submitted that the reasoning is misinterpreting that disclosed by Tyneski et al.. For example, in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the reasoning is pointing to Tyneski et al.'s flap 104 and a switch located in the hinge 106 that senses a change in the location of the flap and provides a signal to a controller containing information that is indicative of whether the flap 104 is open or closed. However, Tyneski et al.'s switch is not the claimed touch sensitive circuitry, which responds to a contact force by a user, for providing a force position signal indicative of the position of the contact force by the user. Clearly, the signal from Tyneski et al.'s switch to the controller does not contain information about and is not indicative of the position of the contact force applied by the user, as recited in claim 1. In other words, Tyneski et al.'s controller cannot determine from the signal the position of the contact force applied by the user on the flap 104, i.e. where the user touched the flap 104. For example, the user can touch the flap 104 almost anywhere to either open or close it and the controller cannot determine where. As stated above, Tyneski et al.'s signal from the switch merely contains information that is indicative of whether the flap 104 is open or closed. Because of this, in contrast to the reasoning provided in paragraph 1 of the

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Office Action, the switch located within the hinge 106 of the movable flap 104 is not the "functional equivalent" of the claimed touch sensitive "circuitry".

Moreover, there are many advantages to having the claimed touch sensitive circuitry in the slide not in the screen of the body. For example, the thickness of keyboard is reduced and the amount of needed wires between the slide and main body is reduced compared to case when the conventional keyboard has mechanical buttons. Another advantage is that one does not need to separate the keyboard and the touch screen. Yet another advantage is that the slide with the touch sensitive circuitry in the slide should be cheaper to build and easier to replace than one in the screen.

For all these reasons, neither the proposed combination, nor any of the cited prior art including Tyneski et al., teaches or suggests a movable housing element being mounted on the housing, responsive to a contact force by a user, for providing the movable housing element signal to the housing that contains information about the position of a contact force applied by the user on the movable housing element, as recited in claim 1.

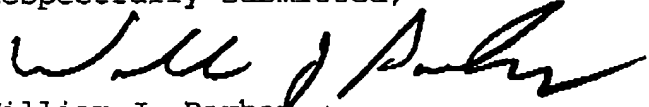
The remarks regarding the remaining claims are incorporated by reference from the response submitted on February 20, 2004, and not repeated herein.

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Conclusion

Reconsideration and early allowance of the claims is
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Barber
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 32,720

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WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-1234
Customer No. 004955